

*Homegoing Celebration
of our
Founder and Pastor*

**Bishop
Gilbert E. Patterson**



“Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever.”

HEBREWS 13:8



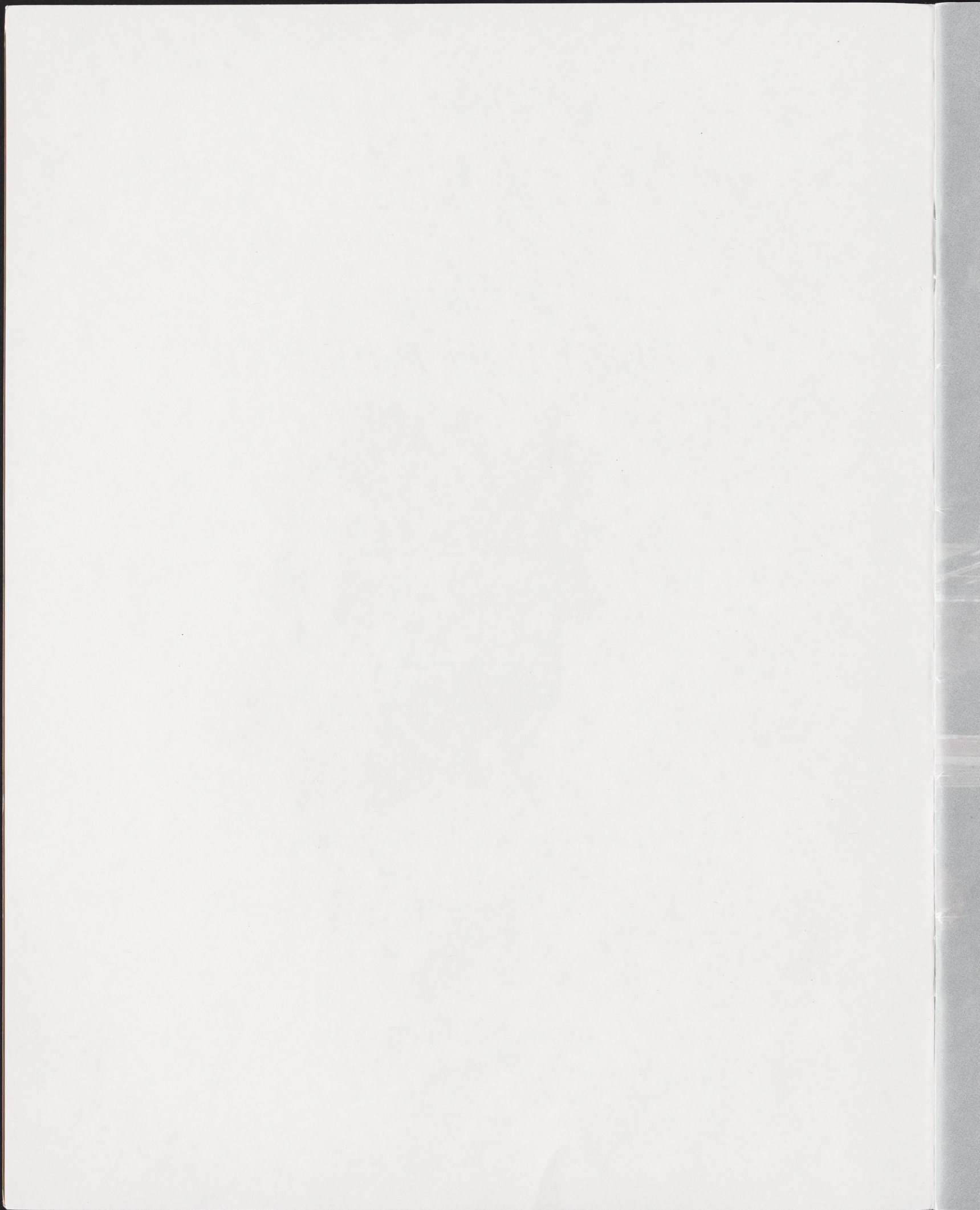
Celebrating the Life
of our
Founder and Pastor

Bishop
Gilbert Earl Patterson



Thursday, the twenty ninth day of March
7:00 o'clock in the evening
Two thousand and seven
anno Domini

Temple of Deliverance
Church Of God In Christ
369 G. E. Patterson Avenue
Memphis, Tennessee





Bishop Gilbert E. Patterson

September 22, 1939 – March 20, 2007

Bishop Gilbert E. Patterson

September 22, 1939 - March 20, 2007



Obituary

Bishop Gilbert Earl Patterson was born September 22, 1939 in the parsonage next door to the Church of God in Christ in Humboldt, Tennessee, the son of the late Bishop William Archie Patterson, Sr. and Mary Louise Patterson. Four other children were born to the family; Elder William Archie Patterson, Jr., who preceded him in death; Evangelist Mary Alice Patterson Hawkins; Supervisor Mother Lee Ella Smith; and Evangelist Barbara Patterson Davis.

Although he was born in Humboldt, Tennessee, his family moved to Memphis, Tennessee two months later in November of 1939.

Gilbert was saved in May of 1951 at the age of 11 at Holy Temple Church of God in Christ, 1254 Wilson Street, Memphis, Tennessee, where his father, Bishop W. A. Patterson, Sr. was Pastor, in a revival at that time being conducted by Elder Johnny Brown.

From 1945–1952 he attended the Lincoln Elementary School which was directly across the street from his home at 1567 South Orleans St. In May of 1952 the Patterson family moved to 1695 Chicago Blvd. in Detroit, Michigan. In Detroit, he attended and graduated from Hutchins Intermediate and Central High School. He also attended the Detroit Bible Institute for a brief period.

In Detroit at age 16, Gilbert received the precious Baptism of the Holy Ghost, Sunday night, September 16, 1956 at his father's church, New Jerusalem Church of God in Christ, 7361 Linwood Ave.

One month later, the Lord called him into the gospel ministry. He preached his first sermon on Tuesday night, January 22, 1957. The sermon text was Isaiah 59:9—the theme "We Wait For Light, But We Walk In Darkness."

He was licensed by his father in March of 1957 and was ordained by Bishop J. S. Bailey, August 28, 1958.

In December of 1961, Gilbert Patterson returned to Memphis to serve as Co-Pastor of Holy Temple Church Of God In Christ and to attend LeMoyne-Owen College. At that time, Holy Temple had 80 adult members and a few children. From December 1961–June 1964, Holy Temple experienced no growth but something special happened in June that turned the church around. Elder Gilbert Patterson led the congregation in three days and nights of total abstinence fasting and prayer. This was followed in July with a 30-day tent revival which was held two blocks from the church on the corner of Wilson and McLemore. During the revival 55 new members were added to the church. From that time, God blessed Gilbert Patterson to bring together large crowds, seemingly at will. He continued as Co-Pastor of Holy Temple and the church experienced tremendous growth between July 1964 and December 1974.

On May 22, 1966 while preaching from Proverbs 3:5–6 "*Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths.*" the love of his life and his greatest jewel, the former Louise Dowdy was in attendance and through the preached Word she was saved and later filled with the gift of the Holy Ghost through the words that he spoke.

They found love in each other (*he would stand every time she entered the room*) and were united in Holy Matrimony on May 27, 1967. From that time until, Gilbert and Louise Patterson continued together winning many souls for Jesus Christ. She maintained the ministry during his absence from the congregation and continues working in the ministry after his demise.

On December 30, 1974 he resigned from Holy Temple with an effective date of February 23, 1975. In the meantime, Gilbert Patterson purchased and remodeled the old Mt. Vernon Baptist Church

building at 547 Mississippi Blvd. At that location, he opened Temple of Deliverance, the Cathedral of Bountiful Blessings Ministry, March 2, 1975.

On that day, 436 persons became members of the church. In less than three years the membership had grown to over 2,000. Immediate plans were made to build a larger sanctuary and on October 8, 1978, three years and seven months from the opening, Temple of Deliverance entered its new sanctuary. At a cost of 1.2 million dollars, it was the first church built by African-Americans in Memphis at a cost of more than a million dollars.

By 1984, the 1,200 seat sanctuary could no longer contain the 11:00 a.m. worshippers and after adding extra chairs in the aisles the crowd frequently overflowed into the fellowship hall downstairs where the worship could be viewed on the closed circuit T.V. screen. On July 5, 1987 the new west wing was dedicated which seated approximately 600. Thirty-two years from the opening of Temple of Deliverance Church Of God In Christ, more than 17,000 members are on the membership roll with more than 8,000 active members. In May, 1999, Bishop Patterson and Temple of Deliverance Church Of God In Christ entered into its new Worship Center which cost approximately 13 million dollars and seats approximately 5,000. In 2005, the congregation dedicated the *G. E. Patterson Family Life and Youth Center* which is built at a cost of more than five million dollars without securing a bank loan. Temple of Deliverance is one of the fastest growing congregations in the country.

During his ministerial career, Bishop Patterson organized seven churches across the country. Bishop Patterson reached out to the young ministers of the church. He afforded many the opportunity to preach to large audiences across the country. Bishop Patterson sowed into their ministries with fatherly wisdom as well as financial contributions.

Bishop Patterson was a man of compassion. He was a part of the nine person strategy team which invited Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to Memphis for the Sanitation Worker's Strike. His work to champion civil rights earned him many awards. In 1993, Bishop Patterson opened the doors of Temple of Deliverance to the community and began serving free hot meals daily. The church fed more than 178,000 during the almost two year period in which he led this humanitarian cause.

Bishop Patterson was the Founder/President of *Bountiful Blessings Ministries* which is viewed nationwide and internationally on the B.E.T. and TBN cable networks and a variety of local television stations throughout the country. He was the editor and publisher of the *Bountiful Blessings Magazine* with a distribution list of over 200,000 individuals. He was the President and General Manager of *WBBP Radio*, a 5000-watt, full time gospel radio station. He was President of Podium Records, a record label whose first project, *Bishop G. E. Patterson Presents Rance Allen and the Soul Winners' Conference Choir* was nominated for a 1999 Grammy Award. Podium Records also released the hit CD's "*Bishop G. E. Patterson and Congregation Singing the Old Time Way Volume One*" and "*Bishop G. E. Patterson and Congregation Singing the Old Time Way Volume Two*." Volume One was nominated for a 2006 Grammy Award, making Bishop Patterson personally a two time Grammy Nominee. Bishop Patterson was the 2006 Stellar Award Winner for Best Traditional Male Vocalist.

Bishop Patterson held an honorary doctorate degree from Oral Roberts University and was a contributing writer in the *Spirit Filled Life Bible* (KJV) which was edited by Dr. Jack Hayford. He was the author of the critically acclaimed book, "*Here Comes The Judge*" published by Whitaker House Publishing.

During the November 1986 General Board meeting, the General Board voted 11 to 0 to invite Gilbert Patterson to come back in the active ministry of the Church Of God In Christ as a Jurisdictional Bishop with a jurisdiction in Memphis. This action of the General Board in

November 1986 was not executed by Bishop J. O. Patterson, Sr., until January 29, 1988 at the Bishop's Conference in Jacksonville, Florida.

On November 14, 2000, Bishop Gilbert Earl Patterson was elected as Presiding Bishop of the Church Of God In Christ, Inc. He was re-elected by acclamation in November, 2004. In this office as the Presiding Bishop, he was the Chairman of the General Board and President of the Church Corporation. In 2002, he chartered COGIC Chairities, Inc. Through this nonprofit corporation, the Church Of God In Christ, Inc. has assisted victims of natural disasters both foreign and domestic as well as other charitable efforts to uplift humanity. Bishop Patterson led the historic renovation of Mason Temple including having the church outfitted with air conditioning, fortifying some structural deficiencies, and retrofitting the audio-visual capabilities of the church, inclusive of adding jumbo screens throughout the sanctuary. Additionally, Bishop Patterson was inspired to start All Saints Bible College which came to represent a vital part of the ongoing renovation of the Mason Temple complex, a project in which the church has partnered with the City of Memphis and the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Of all of his accomplishments and secular achievements, none gave him greater satisfaction than seeing lives transfixed by the gospel of Jesus Christ. His legacy is therefore best seen in the hearts and minds of the millions who have been touched through his ministry and example of service. Therefore, the goal of Temple of Deliverance and Sister Louise Patterson is that the ministry of Bishop Gilbert Earl Patterson would be perpetuated through the printed word, radio, and television ministries.

Bishop Gilbert Earl Patterson is survived by his loving and devoted wife, Louise; his three sisters; Evangelist Mary Alice Patterson Hawkins, Supervisor Mother Lee Ella Smith, and Evangelist Barbara Patterson Davis. Six sisters-in-law; Evangelist Frances Kelley, caregiver Mrs. Lillian (Marvin) Harris, Mrs. Charlotte (Larry) Kimber, Ms. Elizabeth Brown, Ms. Evelyn Mason and Ms. Delores Brown. One brother-in-law; Mr. Ronnie Dowdy. One first cousin, Bishop J. O. Patterson, Jr., Eight nephews; Supt. Milton R. (Catherine) Hawkins, Elder Wray W. Patterson, Mr. Frederick Patterson, Mr. Andre Davis, Mr. Joe Willie (Jeanette) Brown, Mr. George (Althea) Kelley, Mr. Marc (Jennifer) Harris, Mr. Sean Harrell. Ten neices; Mrs. Barbara Joyce (Sam) Boatner, Mrs. Cheryl (Leo) Hall, Ms. Ann Allen, Ms. Ruthie Lake, Mrs. Cathy (Brian) Jackson, Ms. Linda Patterson, Ms. Tommie Sandra Patterson, Mrs. Marla (John) Fitzgerald, Mrs. Mia (Frank) Vickers, and Ashlee Dowdy. God-daughter and caregiver Ms. Kaye B. Jackson. A host of other relatives, special friends and his many sons and daughters of Temple of Deliverance Church Of God In Christ.



"Oh My Record"

*Oh my record will be there.
Be its pages dark or fair.
When I stand,
Stand before that judgement bar.
Oh and when the book shall open wide,
In that morning by and by.
Oh my record, oh my record
It will be there.*

Tribute to a Man After God's Heart

*"And I will give you pastors according to mine heart,
which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding." Jeremiah 3:15*

ORDER OF WORSHIP

**Audience, please stand*

QUIET MOMENTS Harpist Linda Wilson

*THE PROCESSIONAL

The Chief Adjutant
The Jurisdictional Bishop
Visiting Clergy
Pastoral Assistants
Worship Coordinators
Elders
The Family

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

*THE INVOCATION Elder Eddie Amos

*THE OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE Elder Governor Jefferson
Isaiah 40:28-31

*THE NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE Elder John Glenn Brown
I Corinthians 15:51-58

MUSICAL SELECTION Voices of Bountiful Blessings
with Temple of Deliverance Orchestra

EXPRESSIONS OF REMEMBRANCE (2 minutes please)

Governor Phil Bredesen, The State of Tennessee
Mayor Willie W. Herenton, The City of Memphis
Harold Ford Jr., Former Congressman, Ninth District-Tennessee

MUSICAL SELECTION

EXPRESSIONS OF REMEMBRANCE *(2 minutes please)*

Pastoral Assistant Deola Wells Johnson
Bishop William Graves, Presiding Bishop of Christian Methodist Episcopal Church
Rabbi Micah Greenstein, Sr., Rabbi Temple Israel
Pastoral Assistant Elder Billy Macklin

MUSICAL SELECTION

EXPRESSIONS OF REMEMBRANCE *(2 minutes please)*

Temple of Deliverance Church Of God In Christ Family
Evangelist Rhonda Nelson
Deacon Ervin Thomas
Evangelist Caron Dean Watkins and Sister Karon Jean Phillips

Children's Church/Youth Dept.
Latrell Agnew, Michael Dunn and Tiffany Fluellen

The Patterson Family
Superintendent Milton R. Hawkins
Pastor, New Jerusalem C.O.G.I.C., Detroit, Michigan
Adjutant Apostolic to Presiding Bishop

MUSICAL SELECTION

THE READING OF THE OBITUARY *(Silently)*

THE ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND RESOLUTIONS Evangelist Doreen Graves

THE SERMONIC HYMN Evangelist Modearer Henry

THE EULOGY Elder Frank A. White

*RECESSIONAL

*"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:
Henceforth, there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord,
the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only,
but unto all them also that love his appearing."*

2 Timothy 4:7-8

Letter written by our Pastor to the membership of Temple of Deliverance
in March, 1985 on the occasion of the 10th Church Anniversary:

(copied from the original document)

God bless all who have chosen to worship here at Temple of Deliverance today.

It has been my God-given task to organize and serve this congregation for the past ten years and if the Lord wills it so, I shall continue to serve you and lead you to higher heights in the Lord.

Leadership at its best is difficult; but, it is next to impossible when the followers focus on other figures instead of on the one whom the Lord has placed in front. God is a God of order and He never raises up a Joshua so long as He still has a Moses (Joshua 1:1-2).

Our church is plagued by those who desire to teach you, but I pray that you will always remember God's method (Jeremiah 3:15; I Corinthians 4:14-16).

*We are living in the last days and **satan** is attempting to destroy those who mean business for Jesus. One of his greatest weapons is distraction.*

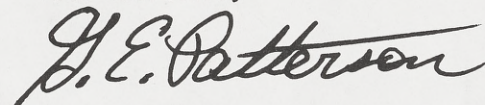
He will send greivous wolves in from the outside and he will raise up self-seekers from within the congregation. (Acts 20:27-30).

Remember this, if the Lord sent you to Temple of Deliverance, He did not send you here for you to get caught up in someone's trap whose aim is to draw you away from the Temple into "their thing."

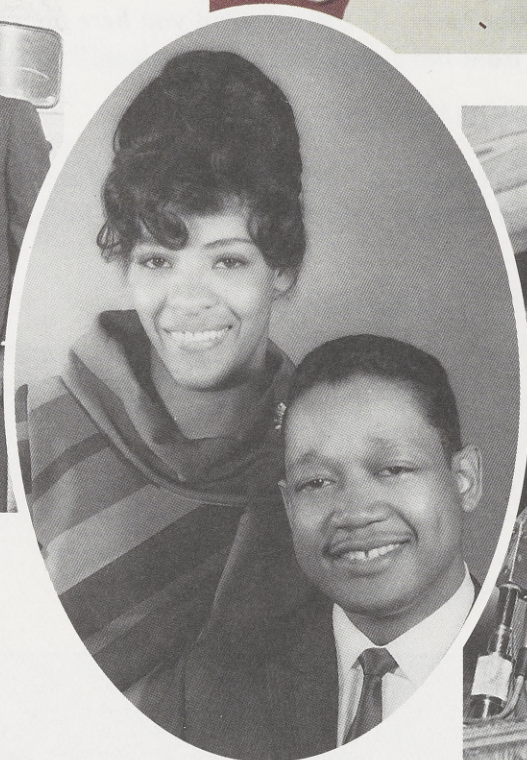
The Lord has great things in store for us, but we must STAY ON COURSE.

Ten years ago satan said, through the critics, "They can't succeed." We proved the devil wrong. Now he is asking, "How long can it last?" Let's show him that it will last until Jesus comes back for us.

Your servant,



Our Pastor... Family First



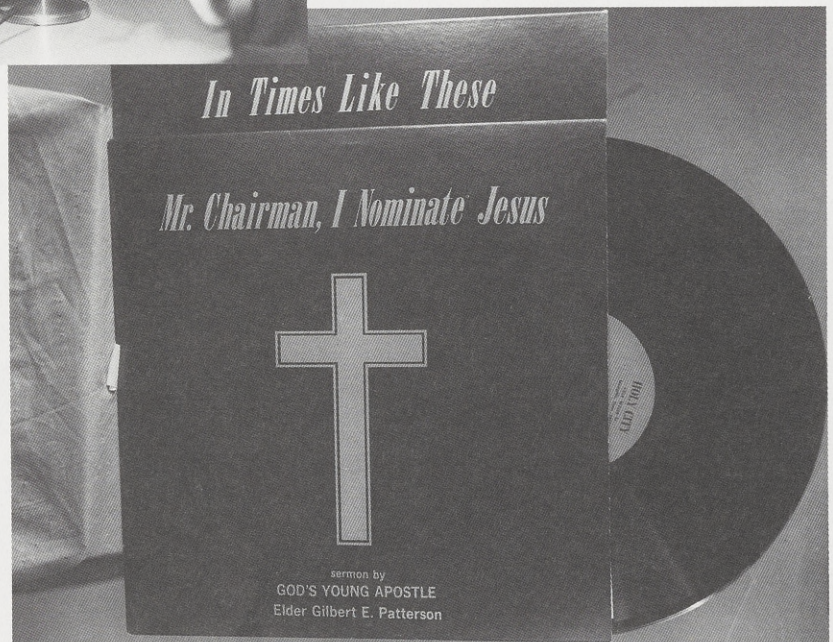








Our Pastor... The Preacher

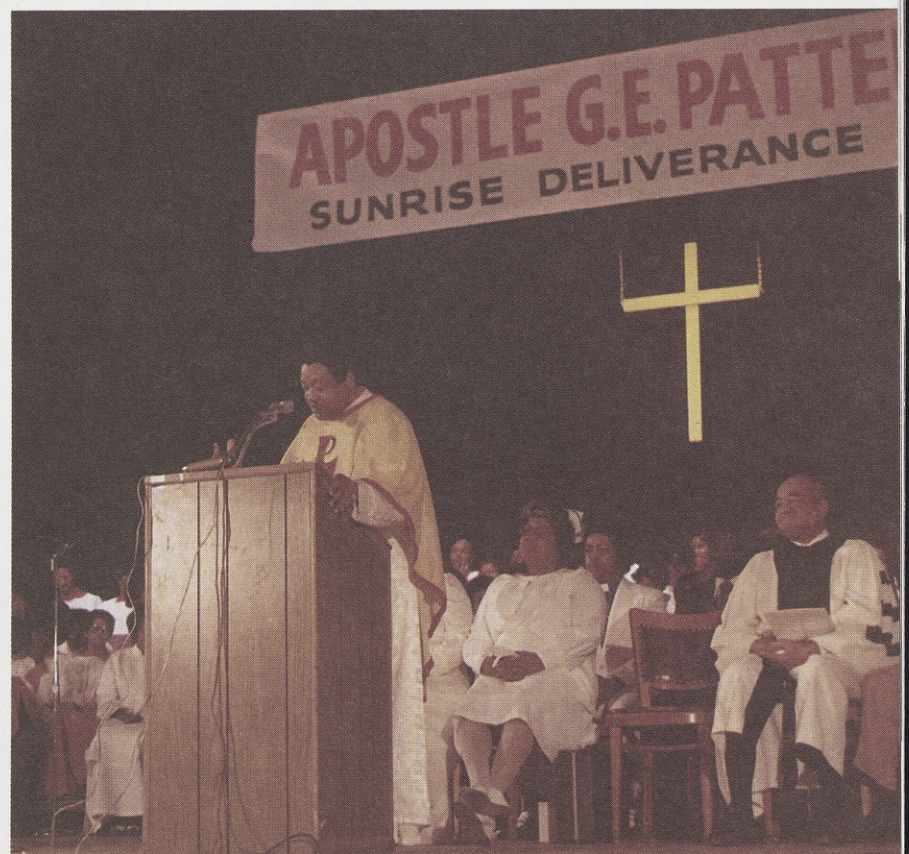


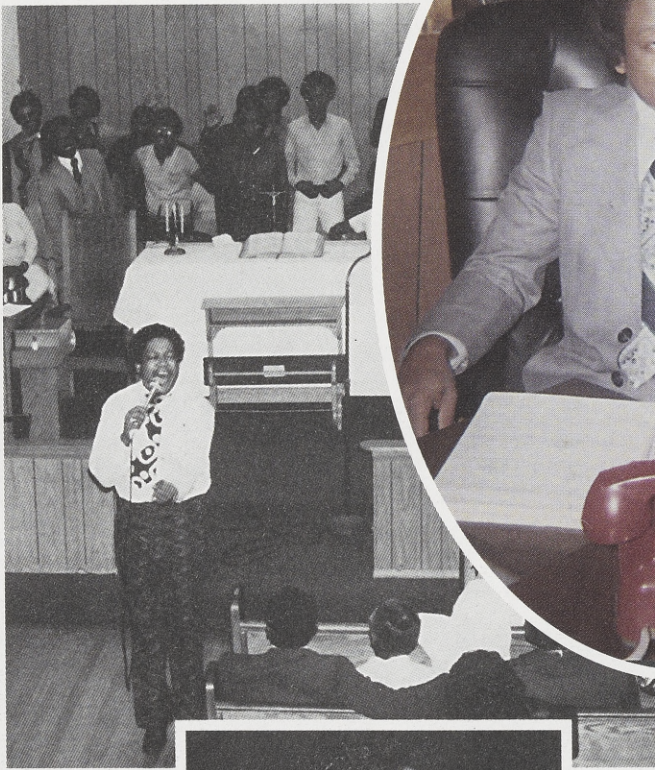


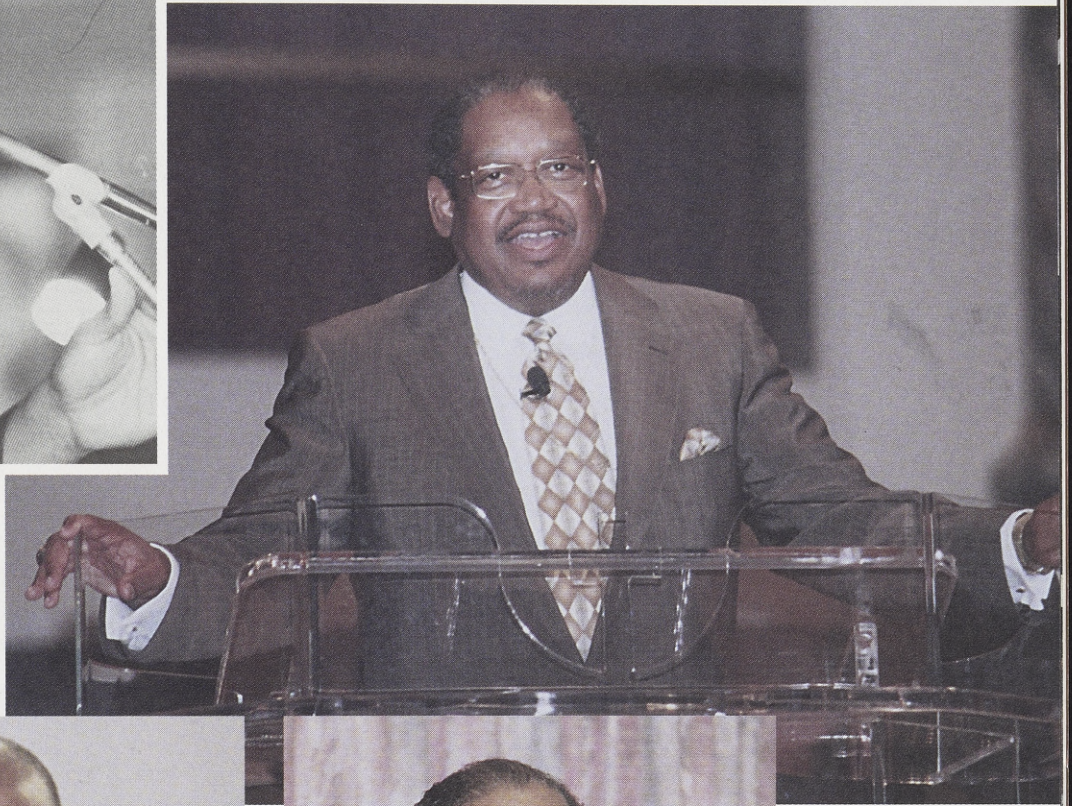
**APOSTLE
G.E. PATTERSON**

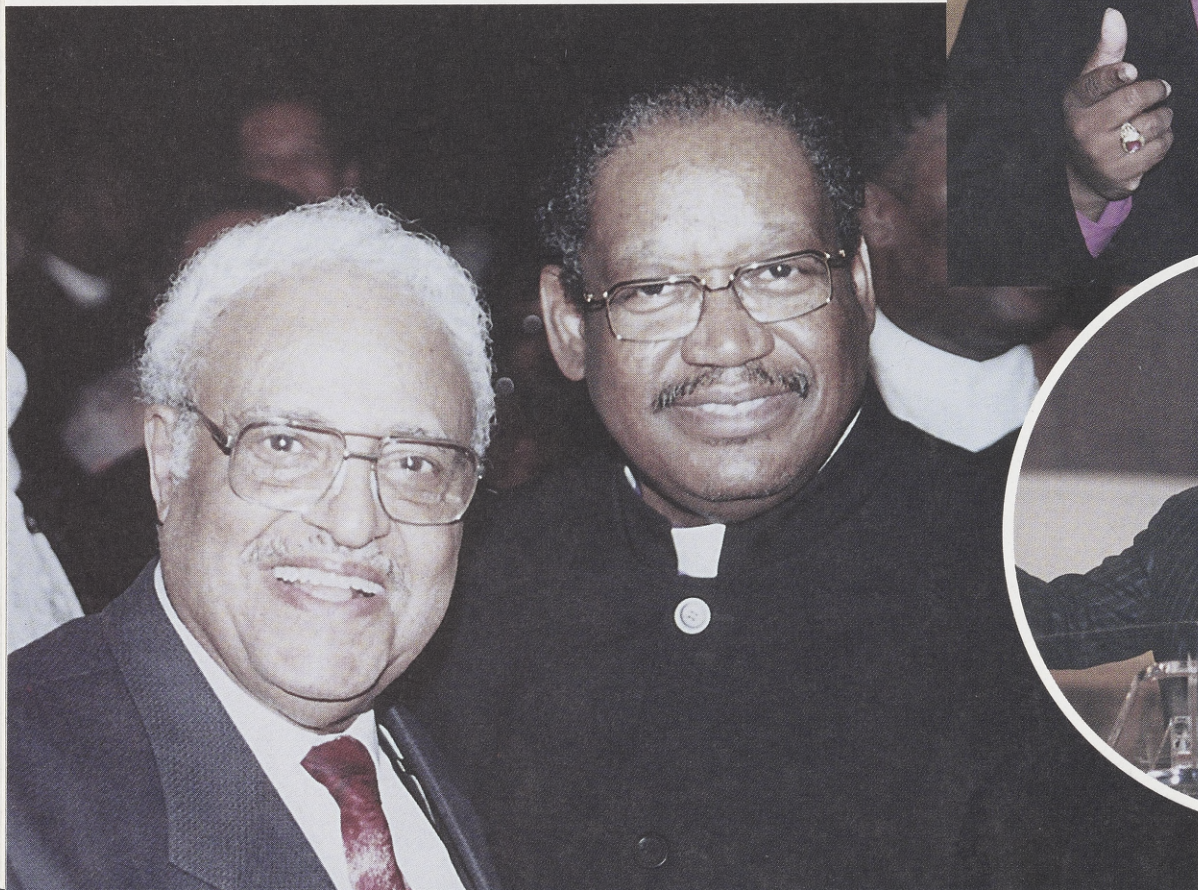
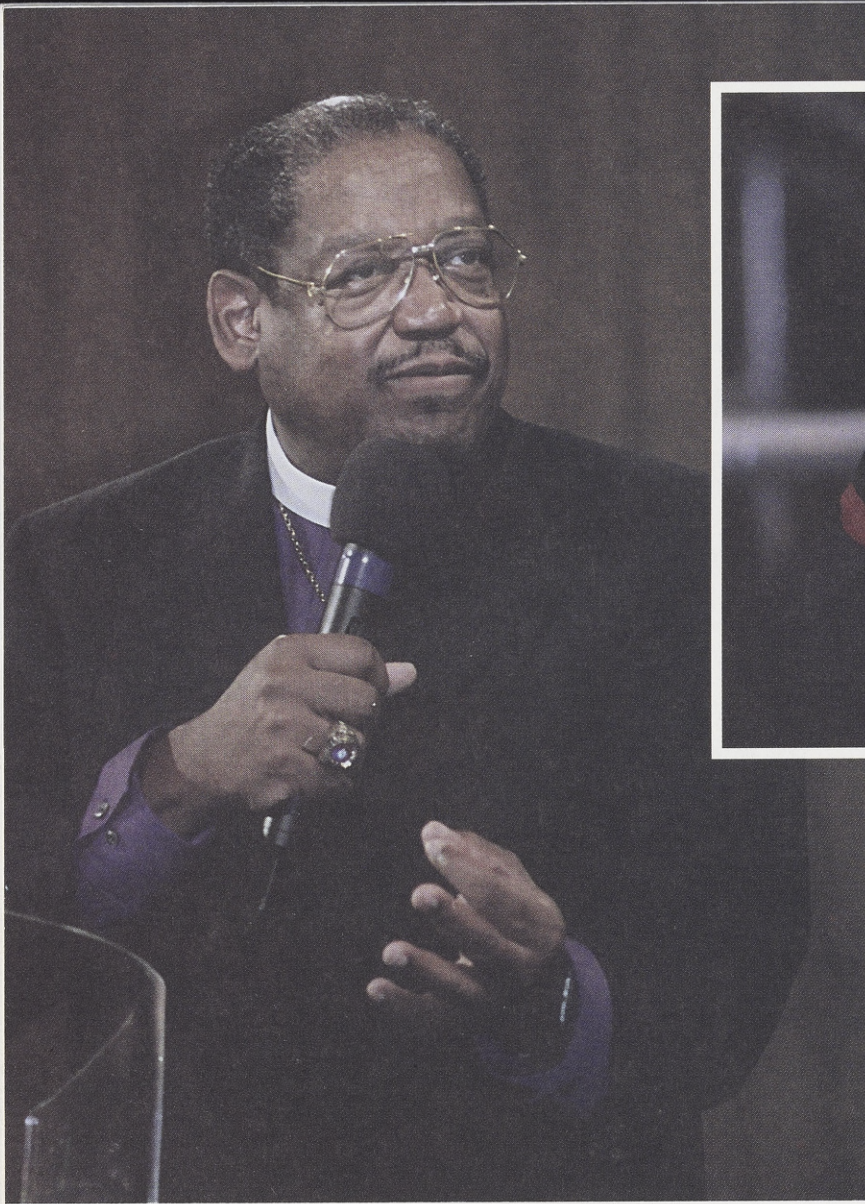
*"O my Lord, Let the man of God
which thou didst send come again
unto us and teach us..."*
Judges 13:8

**GOD'S MAN
FOR OUR TIME**

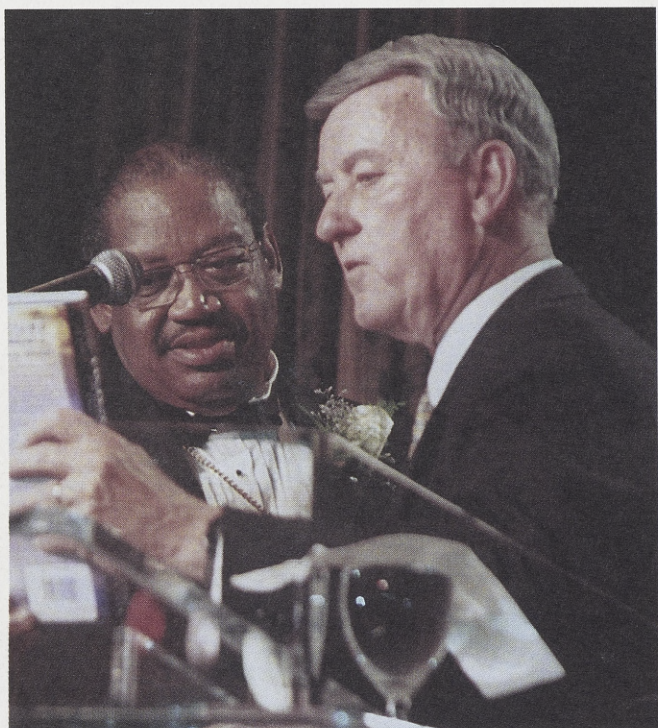



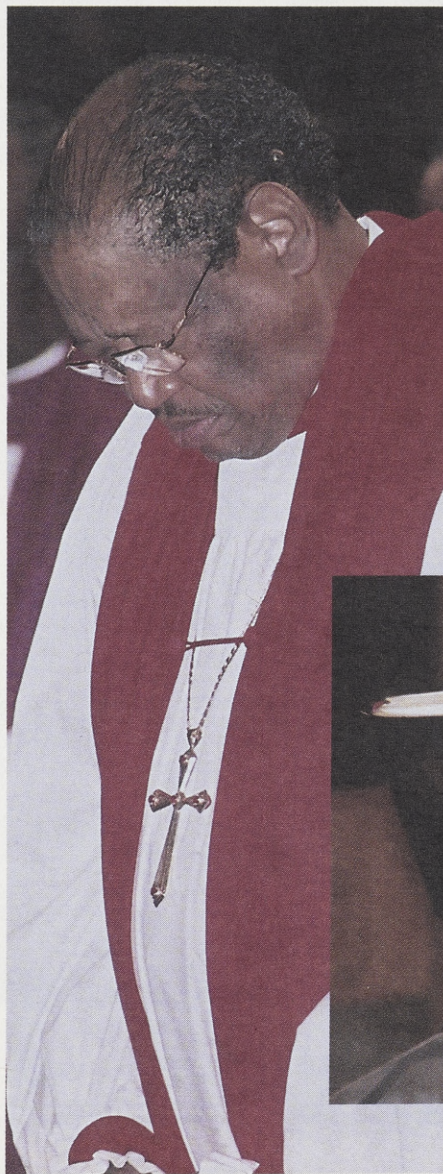










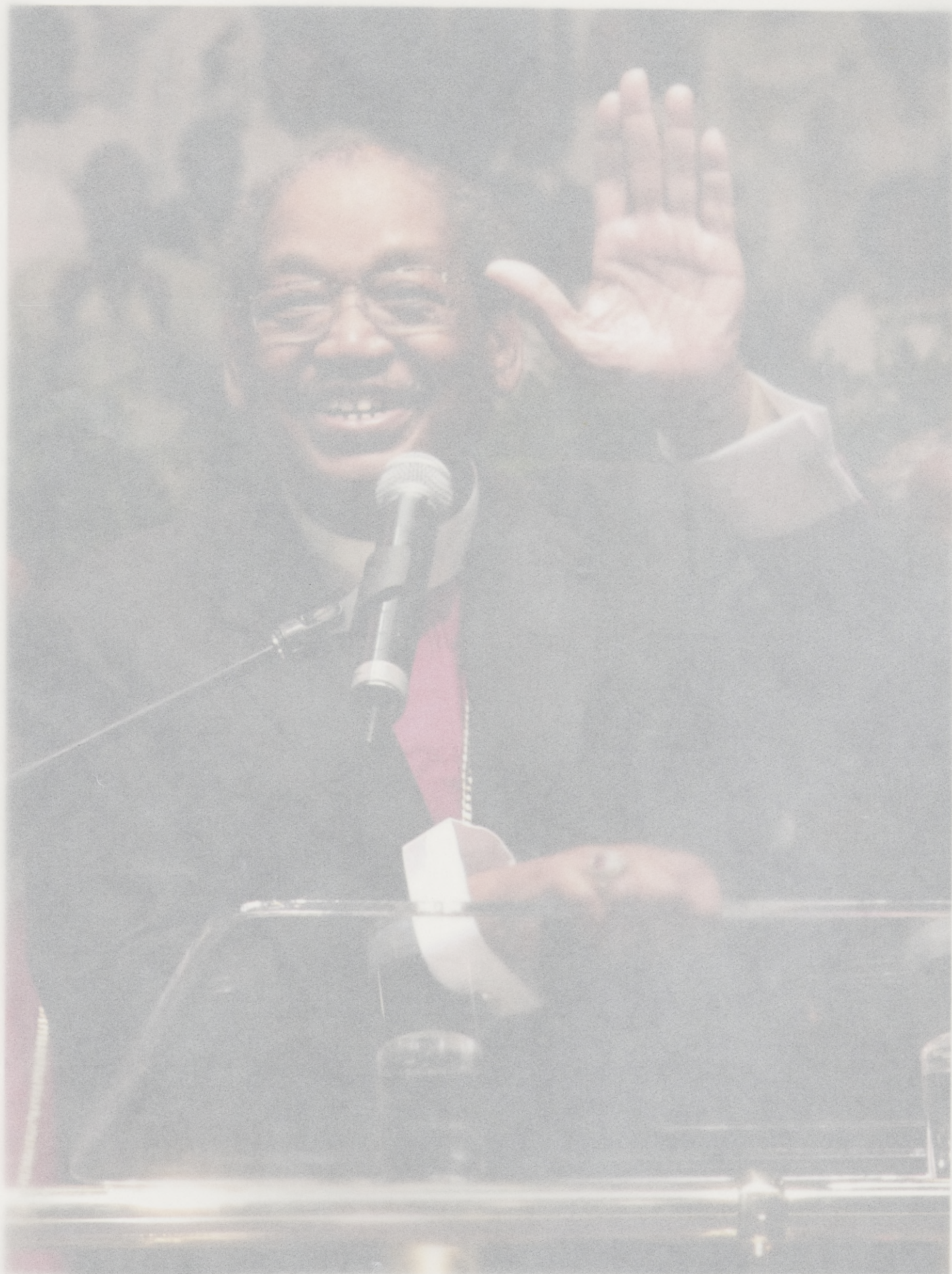




*"When I get inside,
When I get inside of the gate.
I'll be happy praising my Savior
When I get inside the gate."*

*"Just before heaven's door is close.
Just before heaven's door is close.
Come on children let's go in
Just before heaven's door is close."*



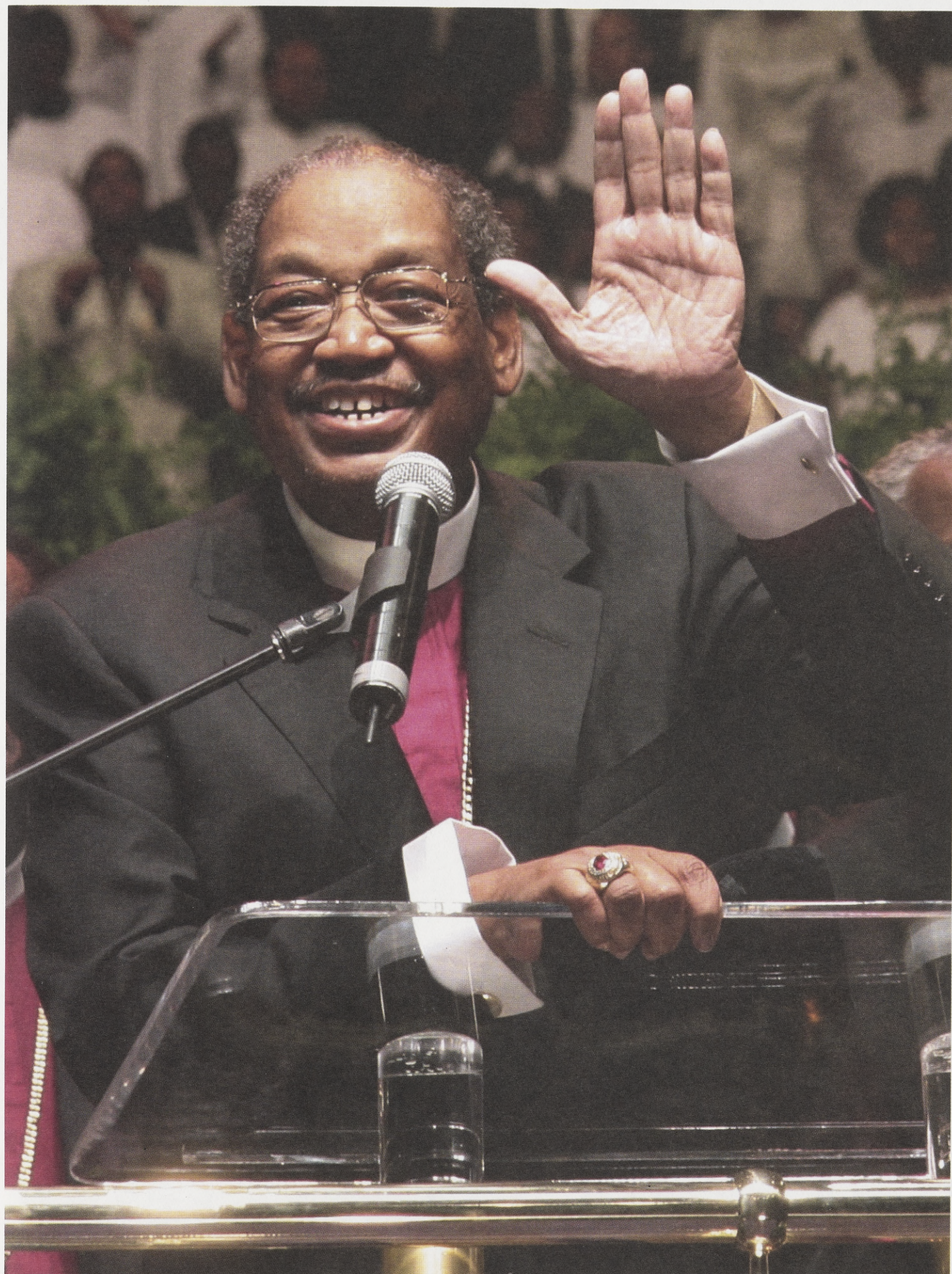




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Just before heaven's door is close."*



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Family of the late Bishop Gilbert E. Patterson and the Temple of Deliverance C.O.G.I.C. church family wish to express our thanks for every act of kindness expressed during our time of loss.

Special Thanks:

Medical Staff: Dr. Charles Wallace, Dr. Jarvis Reed, Catherine Spain, Cynthia Rose and Deborah.

Caregivers: Lillian Harris, Alvin Spight, Elder John G. Brown, Mike Phillips, Franco Taylor, Rhonda Nelson, Dr. Jacqueline Draper, Elder Milton R. Hawkins, Kaye Jackson.

** * Jurisdictional Homegoing Celebration * **

Friday, March 30, 2007

7:00 P.M.

Temple of Deliverance Church Of God In Christ

** * National Homegoing Celebration * **

Saturday, March 31, 2007

10:00 A.M.

Temple of Deliverance Church Of God In Christ

INTERMENT

Saturday, March 31, 2007

Memorial Park
5668 Poplar Avenue
Memphis, Tennessee



